

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 13 and 19 as follows:

1 - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A control method in a printing control apparatus capable of executing printing processing of a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers grouped as a virtual printer, said method comprising:

a first providing step of providing, when ~~a~~ the virtual printer set to a first output method is designated, a first user interface of the virtual printer by performing a conflict process of functions of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer, the first user interface not including a setting item for independently setting the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer; and

a second providing step of providing, when the virtual printer set to a second output method is designated, a second user interface of the virtual printer without performing the conflict process, the second user interface (a) including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer and (b) not including a setting item for independently setting another other member printer printers of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the second output method comprises a redirect printing method system which automatically switches,

when an error occurs in a printer to which a print job has been transmitted, to another printer of the plurality of member printers.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the first output method comprises a distributed printing method which distributes a print job to the plurality of member printers for pages.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the second user interface comprises a user interface of a printer driver of the representative member printer and a user interface of a printer driver of the virtual printer.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the user interface of the printer driver of the virtual printer in the second output method contains a setting item for creating intermediate data.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising a designation step of issuing, to the member printer, a designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on the basis of application data into a predetermined page description language.

19. (Currently Amended) A printing control apparatus capable of executing printing processing of a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers grouped as a virtual printer, said apparatus comprising:

first providing means for providing, when a the virtual printer set to a first output method is designated, a first user interface of the virtual printer by performing a conflict process of functions of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer, the first user interface not including a setting item for independently setting the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer; and

second providing means for providing, when the virtual printer set to a second output method is designated, a second user interface of the virtual printer without performing the conflict process, the second user interface (a) including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer and (b) not including a setting item for independently setting another other member printer printers of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the second output method comprises a redirect printing method system which automatically switches, when an error occurs in a printer to which a print job has been transmitted, to another printer of the plurality of member printers.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first output method comprises a distributed printing method which distributes a print job to the plurality of member printers for pages.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the second user interface comprises a user interface of a printer driver of the representative member printer and a user interface of a printer driver of the virtual printer.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the user interface of the printer driver of the virtual printer in the second output method contains a setting item for creating intermediate data.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising designation means for issuing, to the member printer, a designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on the basis of application data into a predetermined page description language.

25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having a computer-executable program stored thereon for effecting the method according to claim 13.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer-executable program stored on an apparatus-readable storage medium for effecting the method according to claim 13.